Had the leaders of the various revolts been able to agree among themselves, the Mongols would probably have been expelled more quickly than they were. As it was, each was ambitious for his own interests and some were almost as incompetent as the rulers against whom they rebelled. A little effort was made to restore the Sung (the descendants of Chao K'uang-yin), but victory finally rested with a man of humble birth, Chu Yuan-chang: in the rough-and-tumble struggles of the time, native ability and not hereditary position was the best guarantee of success.

Chu Yuan-chang was bom in the present province of Anhui in the year 1328. His family was *poor* and in his middle teens his parents and elder brother died in one of the famines that scourged these unhappy years. For a while he sought support, as have so many of the poor of China throughout the centuries, by entering a Buddhist monastery. When, in the disorders of the time, his refuge was burned and the monks scattered, he entered military service under the leader of a force of rebels in the neighborhood.

Here he displayed signal ability and rose rapidly* He made himself master of a large area in the lower part of the Yangtze Valley and in 1364 assumed the title of Prince of Wu. Chu's energy, discretion, and clemency quickly extended his domains in the South and in 1367 he felt strong enough to press northward. In 1368 Cambaluc fell before one of his generals (Hsu Ta) and in that year he was proclaimed Emperor of a new dynasty, the Ming. The incompetent Mongol ruler fled northward and died before two years were out. For decades thereafter the Mongols sought to reestablish themselves south of the

Great Wall and invasions by them were a fairly constant menace, but their day of power had passed. In China proper their dominion was only a memory.

FOREIGN CONTACTS UNDER THE MONGOLS! MIGRATIONS AND COMMERCE

One of the marked features of the Mongol period was extensive contacts with other peoples and cultures. As we have seen, it appears to have been a deliberate policy of the Yuan to appoint non-Chinese to a fairly large proportion of the official positions in China. Not only Mongols but members of other non-Chinese races were given office. Moreover, bodies of foreign troops were